



ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
TOWN HALL LYON'S ROOM
7:30 PM 4/27/16

ATTENDEES:

Deyst*	White*	Caccavaro*	Kellar	McKenna*
DeCoursey*	Wallach	Harmer*	Gibian	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Bayer*	Duvadie*	
Russell*	Beck*	Jones*	Deshler*	
Franclemont*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

*Indicates present

MINUTES of 4/26/16 accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

RESOLUTION: FULL FUNDING OF FOUNDATION BUDGET This resolution (Ref 1) was presented on 3/28 by AEA President Linda Hanson & School Committee Member Kirsi Allison-Ampe.

VOTED to endorse the resolution with "Arlington Finance Committee" inserted in place of "insert name of local governing board" and with "adopt...over a reasonable time period" inserted in place of "adopt...in the immediate future".

ENROLLMENT: Carman discussed kindergarten applications (Ref 2). There are 424 as of 4/4. This is less than predictions for next year, but there are 4 months to go. He also discussed the difficulty with solving the enrollment problem by redistricting.

MEETINGS:

4/28 School Enrollment Task Force to hear the consultant's school building report.

5/2 School Enrollment Task Force to vote on which middle school option to recommend to FinCom

5/4 6:30 PM FinCom to vote on which middle school option to recommend to Town Meeting

COMMITTEE: The next meeting is 5/4/16, meeting on 5/2 canceled.

RESERVE FUND Balance \$422,607

Peter Howard 4/29/16

Ref 1 Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations

Ref 2 Kindergarten Enrollment & Buffer Zone Report 4/4/16

Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations

Whereas the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission identified two areas (employee health insurance and special education) where the Massachusetts Foundation Budget significantly understates the true cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs;

Whereas this underfunding means the cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations;

Whereas investing in education today leads to higher incomes, and thus less investment in police, prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future;

Whereas state and local economies are most effectively strengthened “by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers.”

Therefore Be It Resolved that the [insert name of local governing board here] calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future.

Rationale: The Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC) was established by the Legislature in the FY16 budget and was charged with examining the Foundation Budget (Chapter 70) formula. The formula was first established as part of the Education Reform legislation in 1993 and has not been thoroughly reviewed or updated since that time. The FBRC found that the current formula understates costs significantly in two areas: Employee Health Insurance and Special Education.

If the recommendations of the FBRC had been implemented in the FY16 budget, state funding for education would have been about \$500 million more than it was. However, if Chapter 70 reflected the true cost of education, the number would be closer to \$2 billion.

Spending by school districts over the required Net School Spending amounts has increased, as a whole, for more than a decade, indicating that communities are using local property taxes and diverting funding from other portions of municipal budgets to fund their schools. In FY14, the total spending above Foundation in the state was \$1.7 billion. At the same time, the state's commitment to municipal aid has declined. Since 2001, unrestricted local aid has been cut by 43%. The net effect is a combination of cuts to local and school services and an increasing reliance on the regressive property tax.

The evidence overwhelmingly establishes the correlation between a well-educated workforce and higher income individuals. States that invest more in education have a higher paid workforce; also, states that increase the level of education of their population see greater productivity and higher wages over time. The link can then easily be made between higher paid individuals and less reliance on various forms of government assistance, as well as lower rates of crime.

A state's high school and college attainment rates are important factors in the state's overall economic strength. Additionally, investments in education can have significant long-term impacts on state and local economies, as well-educated individuals tend to stay relatively local and contribute tax dollars to the state and municipality in which they reside. In general, the taxes paid over time by these individuals are substantially higher than the cost of their public education.

To School Committee 4/14/2016 Kindergarten Enrollment and Buffer Zone Report as of 4/4/2016						
School						
	K	Other Grades				
Bishop	33	3				
Bishop/Bracket	4	2				
Bishop/Stratton	8					
Bishop/Thompson	4					
Brackett	54					
Brackett/Bishop	10					
Brackett/Dallin	7					
Dallin	68					
Dallin/Brackett	7	1				
Dallin/Peirce	1					
Hardy	57	4				
Hardy/Thompson	13	2				
Peirce	24	1				
Peirce/Dallin	2					
Peirce/Stratton	2					
Stratton	45	1				
Stratton/Bishop	5	1				
Stratton/Peirce	8					
Thompson	73					
Thompson/Hardy	6					
K totals as of April 4,2016	429					
Rcvd KT						